



Forage radishes intercropped with wheat

## Intercropping

### Enhancement Activity

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers an opportunity to promote improved plant management by rewarding or encouraging the use of intercropping.

Intercropping is the practice of growing two or more crops in the same, alternate, or paired rows in the same area. This technique increases plant diversity which helps “disguise” crops from insect pests.

The increased plant density also helps to suppress weeds. Intercropping improves the overall health and vigor of crops by minimizing the number and intensity of pest and disease outbreaks.

This enhancement activity will provide resource benefits beyond the minimum level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards.

### Benefits

- Increased biodiversity
- Increased plant health and vigor
- Increased population of beneficial insects
- Increased productivity per acre
- Decreased intensity of pest outbreaks
- Decreased number of pest outbreaks
- Decreased use of pesticides



Peas intercropped with barley

### CSP Payments

You can earn payments by maintaining (benchmark activity) or implementing (new activity) intercropping on your operation.

*Benchmark enhancement activities* are those that are already in place or being performed at the time of signup. Benchmark enhancements receive payments in the first year of the CSP contract. Benchmark enhancements receive 120% of the enhancement payment rate in the first year. The payment declines each year as follows: 120%, 100%, 80%, 60%, 30%, 10%, 0%.

*New enhancement activities* are those that will be implemented or performed during the contract period. New enhancements are paid at a flat rate of 100% each year once they are established.

All CSP Enhancement earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

**Client's Acknowledgement Statement:**

- ☐ I have elected to use the Intercropping plant management enhancement activity and understand the requirements of this activity.
- ☐ I certify that the benchmark activities listed below are already in place on my operation.
- ☐ I will establish the new activities listed below during my contract period. I understand that I will not receive a CSP enhancement payment until the activity is implemented.
- ☐ I agree to provide written documentation of the activity performed (use the attached worksheet or equivalent) to NRCS upon request.
- ☐ I agree to keep records of receipts for any materials, parts, equipment or services used to implement this activity.
- ☐ I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of this activity.

Client's signature:

Date:

Enter the total number of acres of the enhancement activity that will be implemented or maintained under the CSP contract in the table below. Enhancement activities receiving financial assistance from other federal programs will not receive a CSP payment until they are no longer required in that contract.

Enhancement Activity	Benchmark Activity	New Activity
Total number of acres being intercropped under CSP contract		

*Reviewed by NRCS, signature:*

*date:*

### Intercropping

**Documentation Worksheet**

Use the following table for documentation and attach a plan map showing the location of the fields that are being intercropped.

Farm	Tract	Field	Crops	Acres

**Client Certification**

I certify that I have implemented intercropping in the fields listed above.

signature:

date:

*Reviewed by NRCS, signature:*

*date:*